

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Young, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Andrus, Skaug, Alfieri, Allgood, Crane(12), Gannon, Green

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Young

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Crane (13) called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

MOTION: **Rep. Allgood** made a motion to approve the minutes from February 23, 2023.
Motion carried by voice vote.

RS 30354: **Rep. Hawkins** presented **RS 30354**, proposed legislation clarifying foreign nationals may not vote in any election.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 30354**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30370: **Rep. Hill** presented **RS 30370**, proposed legislation preventing credit card companies from assigning an unique merchant category code to firearm retailers in Idaho. There will be allowances for financial institutions to disclose this protected financial information if authorization or a subpoena is provided.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 30370**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30476: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 30476**, proposed legislation prohibiting anyone from trafficking a minor for a criminal abortion with the intent of concealing the crime from the minor's parents and authorizes the Attorney General to prosecute at their discretion.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 30476**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Crane (13) put the committee at ease at 9:10 A.M.

Chairman Crane (13) reconvened the meeting at 9:14 A.M.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Crane (13)** made an unanimous consent request to adjust the agenda. There being no objection, consent was granted.

RS 30471: **Rep. Pickett** presented **RS 30471**, proposed legislation allowing any elected school district trustee to finish their term even if there is a boundary change in the trustee's zone which puts their current residence in a different zone.

MOTION: **Rep. Allgood** made a motion to introduce **RS 30471**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 180: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **H 180**, legislation allowing the Idaho State Treasurer to hold a portion of state funds in gold and silver. Rep. Ehardt stated the Treasurer would only be able to use idle monies for this purpose. The Treasurer has been involved in this legislation and recognizes this could be another tool available to her.

Ron Nate, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified **in support** of **H 180**, stating he has been teaching economics for 25 years and silver and gold would be a tool to mitigate the effects of inflation. The Treasurer has three options to put idle monies to use and **H 180** offers the only non-paper option. Mr. Nate remarked Idaho has two qualified depositories to store gold and silver.

Bob Coleman, Idaho Armored Vaults and Profits Plus Capital Management, testified **in support** of **H 180**, stating Idaho needs this bill because it allows the State Treasurer a choice. Mr. Coleman remarked there will be a volatility in price, however, metals are a strategic long term investment. In response to committee questions, Mr. Coleman gave a brief overview of the logistics involved in purchasing, storing and transporting metals.

Senator Hart presented closing testimony on **H 180**, stating he has been working with the Treasurer and the state has \$10 billion in idle funds that could possibly be stored in metals and **H 180** allows the only non-paper option.

MOTION: **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to send **H 180** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ehardt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 182: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **H 182**, legislation also known as "Coach Kennedy's Law", protects a citizen's right to pray at a public school. Rep. Ehardt stated the "Lemon Test" was overturned by the Supreme Court on June 27, 2022, ending over 50 years of preventing a citizen's right to expression of religion. She shared Coach Kennedy's story and how the "Lemon Test" was overturned.

Pastor Mark Thornton, testified **in support** of **H 182**, stating he serves as chaplain for the BSU football team and leads the team in prayer before, during and after games. Pastor Thornton shared a story regarding how an out of state organization requested he be removed from his position because they felt it was abusive to ask players to pray. Pastor Thornton remarked prayer should always be appropriate.

MOTION: **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to send **H 182** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Crane (13)** and **Rep. Ehardt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 173: **Reps. Boyle** and **Hill** presented **H 173**, legislation preventing foreign governments from purchasing Idaho agricultural land, mineral and water rights, and mining claims. Rep. Boyle stated forestry/timber land is not included in the definition of agricultural land in Idaho and if any government currently owns land, mineral or water rights or mining claims, this bill will not change their ownership. Rep. Hill remarked Idaho has many valuable minerals and all countries are included in this legislation because governments will use other countries to purchase assets.

ORIGINAL MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to send **H 173** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Bob Naerebout, Idaho Dairymens Association, testified **in support** of **H 173** stating, he believes in a free market system, however, it does not mean citizens can compete with treasuries of foreign governments. Mr. Naerebout remarked 70% of the milk processed in Idaho is processed by foreign owned companies.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **H 173** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: **Rep. Scott** asked an unanimous consent request to withdraw her motion to send **H 173** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**VOTE ON
ORIGINAL
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Crane (13) and Ehardt will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 A.M.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Lisa Hendricks
Secretary